

Amendments to the Abstract

Please **amend** the Abstract as follows:

~~The present invention relates to soft decision decoding of Reed-Solomon product codes. According to the invention, a~~ A method and apparatus for error correction of an encoded data stream. ~~comprises the steps of: saving the~~ A demodulated data stream is saved in an input buffer 2; ~~performing a~~ . A first correction process is performed on-the-fly in the input buffer 2; ~~transferring the~~ . The data is transferred to an external SDRAM 3 after correction; ~~copying a~~ . A data frame is copied from the external SDRAM 3 to an embedded SRAM 11; ~~starting a~~ . A multipass correction is started in the embedded SRAM 11; ~~and copying the~~ . The corrected data frame is copied back from the embedded SRAM 11 to the external SDRAM 3.